

USDA Drought Disaster Designates 4 Massachusetts Counties & FSA Emergency Loan Program

On August 29 and September 2, 2016 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared certain counties in New Hampshire as primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by a recent drought. As a result of the New Hampshire declaration, four contiguous Massachusetts counties are automatically designated as drought disaster areas including: **Essex, Franklin, Middlesex and Worcester** counties. A USDA declaration makes available emergency loans through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to eligible producers to help recover from crop losses. Link to the USDA press

releases: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/emergency-designations/2016/ed_2016_0825_rel_0094 and http://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/emergency-designations/2016/ed_2016_0902_rel_0101

Farm operators in the above designated counties are encouraged to contact their local USDA FSA county office. The following link to the FSA home page includes a tab with county office contact information: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Massachusetts/index>. A link to the Emergency Loan Program describes the program in detail with information on what a producer should bring to a conversation with FSA loan staff: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index>

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